

REMARKS

This Amendment is submitted supplementary to the previous Amendment and in connection with the interview with the Examiner.

With the present Amendment applicant's retained the claims submitted in the previous Amendment and added claims 15, 16, and 17.

It is respectfully submitted that despite the Examiner's opinion, claim 1 still clearly and patentably distinguishes the present invention from the prior art, since none of the references disclosed a flexible connecting element which mechanically couples the first operating switch and the second operating switch. The Examiner's statement that any element can be flexible including for example the element 56 in the patent to Knouse, can not be considered as justifiable.

It is respectfully submitted that some dependent claims define additional features which clearly distinguish the present invention over the art, in particular claims 12-14 which were presented in the previous Amendment.

Also, new claims 15-17 define features which are not disclosed in any of the references and can not be derived from them as a matter of obviousness. In particular, the feature that there is an angle between the two

switch elements, that the angle can be curved, that the flexible connecting element is guided on the angle, and that the flexible connecting element is curved and flexibly guided on the curved angle are not disclosed in the prior art applied against the original claims.

These features clearly and patentably distinguish the present invention from the prior art.

Reconsideration and allowance of the present application is most respectfully requested.

Should the Examiner require or consider it advisable that the specification, claims and/or drawings be further amended or corrected in formal respects in order to place this case in condition for final allowance, then it is respectfully requested that such amendments or corrections be carried out by Examiner's Amendment, and the case be passed to issue. Alternatively, should the Examiner feel that a personal discussion might be helpful in advancing this case to allowance; he is invited to telephone the undersigned (at 631-549-4700).

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Michael J. Striker', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

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